

Michael Powell should be ashamed.

Easing the FCC ownership regulations will have the same effect that deregulating the airlines did to the airline companies (the ones that haven't gone bankrupt or been consolidated yet).

~Lahra

I urge you all to vote against changing the Commission's Broadcast ownership rules at your June 2 meeting. As a concerned citizen I have already seen the effects of concentrated media ownership here in my own town of Kansas City. As someone who has studied journalism, I cringe daily as I watch our local broadcast media as each channel covers nearly the same stories. In addition to that, our local newspaper is owned by the company that owns two of our local network stations. I must say, news of concern to the public is rarely put forth. In fact, it is quite obvious that ratings grabbing "if it bleeds it leads" types of stories are pushed by the management. Of course this is all done in the name of profit, the real reason media owners wish to consolidate their holdings.

While I am savvy enough to seek out alternate sources of information, there are many who are not as media literate as I. Because these many people never hear about issues that should be of concern to them as citizens, voters or property holders, vigorous city-wide debate is confined to the well-educated and relatively wealthy of our burg. I am sure I can extrapolate this local problem to the nation at large. This is a problem exacerbated by current media ownership rules--I cannot imagine making it worse by allowing even greater concentration of our "fourth estate" into the hands of a few wealthy individuals and corporations. Remember that the media should not be, at heart, a business only, but an important ingredient in what we so proudly claim is our democracy.

I know you feel beholden to those wealthy groups which have aided your rise to your current position, but please think a moment on what sort of problems you create for the rest of the populace when you consider only the interest of a few.

Sincerely,

Karrin Thomas Huhmann
Kansas City, Missouri